

means, operatively coupled to the means for providing, for associating a digital signature of a central security policy rule data distribution source to the variable security policy rule data;

means for storing the digital signature and the variable policy rule data; and

a1 network node means, operatively coupled to the storage means, for periodically obtaining the digital signature and the variable policy rule data from the means for storing, and not from a forwarded signed message, and for analyzing the variable policy rule data to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level.

- a2
9. (Amended) The computer network system of claim 1 wherein the variable policy rule data includes [differing] policy rule data on a per application basis for a plurality of software applications supported by at least one network node [and wherein the at least one network node includes means for facilitating cryptographic processing of data that is accessible by the plurality of software applications].

- a3
12. (Amended) A computer network security system having enforceable security policy provision comprising:

means for storing variable security policy rule data for use by a network node; and

means, operatively coupled to the means for storing, for securely providing the variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level.

from the means for storing, and not from a forwarded signed message.

- a4
16. (Once Amended) A method for providing enforceable security policy provisions comprising:

providing variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node;

associating a digital signature of a central security policy rule data distribution source to the variable security policy rule data;

storing the digital signature and the variable policy rule data; and

periodically obtaining the digital signature and the variable policy rule data, not forwarded with a signed message, and analyzing the variable policy rule data to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement.

25. (Once Amended) A method for providing enforceable security policy provision comprising:

storing variable policy rule data for use by a network node; and

securely providing the variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node other than through a forwarded signed message to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level.

29. (Once Amended) A computer having enforceable security policy provision comprising:

means for obtaining variable policy rule data from a central security policy rule data distribution source and not from a forwarded signed message;

means, operatively coupled to the means for obtaining, for analyzing the variable policy rule data; and

means, responsive to the means for analyzing the variable policy rule data, for facilitating unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level based on the variable policy rule data.

34. (Once Amended) A storage medium for storing programming instructions that, when read by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to provide enforceable security policy provision, the storage medium comprising: